

PERSONALITY OF OPHELIA IN WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S *HAMLET*
(WRITTEN ABOUT 1602/17 CENTURY):
A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH

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Pembimbing I

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**PERSONALITY OF OPHELIA IN WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S
HAMLET
(WRITTEN ABOUT 1602/17 CENTURY):
A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH**

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ABSTRACT

The major issue of this study is "How is the personality of Ophelia reflected in William Shakespeare's Hamlet?" The objective of this study is to analyze the play based on its structural elements and psychoanalytic approach.

The research is qualitative study. The researcher uses two data sources: primary data source and secondary data source. Primary data are taken from Hamlet play written by William Shakespeare. The secondary data sources are books and other data that have relationship with the research. The object of the study is the personality of Ophelia reflected in William Shakespeare's Hamlet. Technique of the data collection are reading the drama script, taking important note in both primary and secondary data, identifying the topic of the play, and analyzing the data of the research based on Sigmund Freud's theory. And the technique of the data analysis is descriptive analysis. The results of the study show the id of Ophelia is a good daughter. It is shown when her father orders her to quit seeing Hamlet, she agrees, "I shall obey my Lord" (H. Act 1, Sc 3). The ego of Ophelia appears in a condition where Ophelia tries to show her cares to her lord Hamlet. Through a song she tells that no one can make the same thing of love like Hamlet, "How should I your true love know, from another one? By his cockle hat and staff, and his sandal soon" (H. Act 4, Sc 5). The superego of Ophelia appears in this script, where she tries to make a positive thinking related with the decision of Hamlet when he falls in love with her. The power of Ophelia in superego takes her mind to the positive way related with Hamlet's love.

Keywords: Psychoanalysis, Personality, Ophelia, Love.

A. Introduction

Every people has different characters from other. These characters grow up since we are child and develop depend on many factors that influence them. And after that these characters create us to be an individu that has spesific characteristic called personality.

Personality is the set of characteristics that each person possessed. Personality influences how one behaves as well as one's motivations. The personality is the one making the person react in a certain way in various situations.

Here the researcher sees the personality of Ophelia in William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* as the thing that is interesting to analyze. Ophelia is one of the minor characters in *Hamlet* play. She is Hamlet's sweetheart.

Hamlet is a famous European drama written by William Shakespeare in the 17th century that tells about a revenge at Elsinore Castle, Denmark. The story starts on the castle battlements in Denmark, where the guards see the dead king's ghost, Hamlet's father. They bring Hamlet to the ghost the next night. The Ghost tells Hamlet that he was murdered by Hamlet's uncle, Claudius, who is now the king because he married Hamlet's mother, Gertrude, who is still living. Hamlet meets a group of actors and tells them to do a recreation of the killing of Hamlet's father. In the middle of the play Hamlet's uncle, Claudius, goes crazy and it's proven that the new king is guilty of murder. Later, Hamlet is talking with his mother and Ophelia's (Hamlet's girlfriend) father, Polonius, is behind the curtain. Hamlet thinks it's Claudius and stabs the curtain and kills Polonius. Ophelia goes crazy and drowns in a river. Ophelia's brother, Laertes, is mad at Hamlet so he challenges him to a sword fight. King Claudius gets in on it too and he poisons Hamlet's wine. Just to make sure Hamlet dies Laertes puts poison on the tip of his sword. During the duel, Laertes scratches Hamlet with the poison sword. Hamlet picks up the poison sword and stabs Laertes. The queen gets thirsty and drinks the poison wine that Hamlet was going to drink. Hamlet gets up and stabs the new king. The only one who survived was Horatio, Hamlet's best friend.

William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon on 26 April 1564, a small country town. He was the son of John Shakespeare, a successful glover and alderman originally from Snitterfield, and Mary Arden, the daughter of an affluent landowning farmer. His actual birth date remains unknown, but is traditionally observed on 23 April, St George's Day. This date, which can be traced back to an 18th-century scholar's mistake, has proved appealing to biographers, since Shakespeare died 23 April 1616. He was the third child of eight and the eldest surviving son. He was an English poet and playwright, widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist. He is often called England's national poet and the "Bard of Avon". His surviving works, including some collaboration, consist of about 38 plays, 154 sonnets, two long narrative poems, and several other poems. His early works especially drew on such Greek and Roman greats as Seneca and Plautus. *Hamlet* was written in 1604, when the themes of jealousy and sadness created in this era. The other's William Shakespeare's works are *Othello*, *Macbeth*, *King Lear*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Julius Caesar*.

From the statement above the researcher is interested in analyzing William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* due to four reasons, such as:

1. The researcher really loves the classic play such as William Shakespeares'. *Hamlet* is one of the most popular masterworks of William Shakespeare.
2. Setting of place of *Hamlet* is around the castle. The castle has name Elsinore Castle in Eastern Denmark. It is one of the characteristics of classic plays.
3. The play has great possibility to know the phenomenon of psychological problems in the character.
4. The personality of Ophelia that she is unbalanced character and emotional person, this is shown when she goes crazy after her father is murdered.

The last-two reasons are the reason why the researcher analyzed this play using psychoanalysis theory. Furthermore based on the explanation

above, the researcher analyzes a research under the title **PERSONALITY OF OPHELIA IN WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S *HAMLET* (WRITTEN ABOUT 1602/17 CENTURY): A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH.**

B. Research Method

The problem of the study is "How is the personality of Ophelia reflected in William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*?" The researcher focuses on the personality of Ophelia based on the Psychoanalytic Approach. The objectives of the studies are: a) Analyzing the play based on its structural elements, and b) Analyzing the play based on the psychoanalytic approach. The benefits of the studies are theoretically, to give additional contributions to literature researches dealing with William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* and practical benefit to give deeper understanding about the content of the play, especially from the psychological aspect. The researcher uses descriptive qualitative method. The type of the data is text that includes word, sentence, utterances, and dialogues taken from *Hamlet* drama script. There are two types of data sources, namely: The primary data source is the scripts play itself, *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare. And, the secondary data sources are books and other data that have relationship with the research. The methods of collecting data in this research are: Reading the drama script repeatedly, taking note of the important part in both primary and secondary data, identifying the topic of the play, and analyzing the data of the research based on Sigmund Freud's theory. In analyzing the data, the researcher uses descriptive and hermeneutic analysis. Descriptive means that the researcher interprets the text and content relating to the psychological condition of the minor character, while hermeneutic interprets the script to find out the intension of the playwright.

C. Research Finding and Discussion

After analyzing the structural elements of the play, the researcher discusses the relation between the elements and puts the element into unity. The famous European drama, *Hamlet*, written by William Shakespeare in the 17th century is a play that tells Elsinore Castle, Denmark. In *Hamlet*, William Shakespeare performs Claudius, as the major character. He is the brother of

the late King of Denmark and the uncle to Hamlet. This play tells about Hamlet who takes revenge for his father's death that killed by Claudius and his love for Ophelia.

Based on psychoanalytic analysis there are found that the *id* of Ophelia appears where she loves her father, "*I shall obey my Lord*" (H. Act 1, Sc 3). She always obeys what her father says. She always takes a good lesson on it, because she considers that her father is a watchman of his heart. The *ego* of Ophelia appears in a condition where Ophelia tries to show her cares to her lord Hamlet. Through a song she tells that no one can make the same thing of love like Hamlet, "*How should I your true love know, from another one? By his cockle hat and staff, and his sandal soon*" (H. Act 4, Sc 5). The *ego* of Ophelia related with love. Here Ophelia only believes with the love of Hamlet. The *superego* of Ophelia appears in this script, where she tries to make a positive thinking related with the decision of Hamlet when he falls in love with her. The power of Ophelia in *superego* takes her mind to the positive way related with Hamlet's love. She tells to her father, "*My lord, he hath importuned me with love. In honorable fashion*" (H. Act. 1, Sc. 3).

D. Conclusion and Implication

1. Conclusion

After analyzing William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* play, the researcher draws the following conclusion. Based on the psychological analysis, the *id* of Ophelia appears where she loves her father. She always obeys what her father says. She always takes a good lesson on it, because she considers that her father is a watchman of his heart. The *ego* of Ophelia appears in a condition where Ophelia tries to show her cares to her lord Hamlet. Through a song, she tells that no one can make the same thing of love like Hamlet. The *ego* of Ophelia related with love. Here Ophelia only believes with the love of Hamlet. The *superego* of Ophelia appears in this script, where she tries to make a positive thinking related with the decision of Hamlet when he falls in love with her. The power of Ophelia in *superego* takes her mind to the positive way related with Hamlet's love.

2. Implication

This research is far from perfect because of the researcher's limited knowledge and understanding on the literature. The whole analysis represents the researcher understanding of the play based on the personality of Ophelia using psychoanalytic approach. William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* is an interesting play. It's suggested to the other researchers that use this play; they may use different approaches such as sociological approach and feminism approach.

He or she needs to make a deeper analysis to enrich the acknowledgement about literature. In sociological analysis the other researchers can analyze the background or culture element of the play between the story on the play and the reality.

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